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How to submit a book for *State of the Arts*

To submit a book by a Montana author for inclusion in *State of the Arts*' "About Books" section:

Please send a copy of the book to *Lively Times*, 33651 Eagle Pass Trl., Charlo, MT 59824; or submit the following information electronically to writesus@livelytimes.com or mac@mt.gov:

- Title, author, publisher, publisher's address and month/year published;
- Price and whether it's hard- or softcover;
- A brief description of the book (no more than 200 words), and a short bio of the author;
- A cover image: minimum 200 dpi in pdf, jpg or tiff file;
- If other publications or authors have reviewed the book, send a brief sampling of those remarks.

If you would like us to return the book, include a note with it saying so. (We will pay for shipping.)

E-books: We'll also mention books that are only electronically published: send title, author, a cover image, website for downloads, and a brief paragraph about the book.

Books submitted to *State of the Arts* appear in this publication at the Montana Arts Council's discretion and as space permits, and will not necessarily be reprinted in *Lively Times*.

ABOUT BOOKS

The Body on the Floor of the Rotunda

By **Jim Moore**
Published 2013 by Raven Publishing, Inc.,
Norris, MT
\$26 hardcover

In his latest novel, Jim Moore immediately grabs readers' attention with the description of a body falling from the fourth floor balcony in the Montana State Capitol, ergo, the title.

Readers are introduced in short order to Senator Lynn Bruce, an attorney from Roundup, who becomes central to the story when he is enlisted to defend the prime suspect in what eventually is determined to be a case of murder.

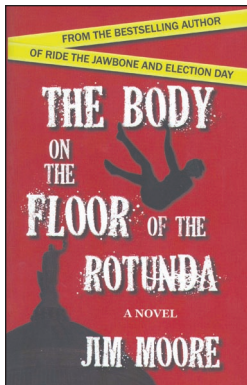
The author's background as a former state senator and lawyer give him the credentials to pen an intriguing murder mystery, set in the midst of a busy legislative session, where both the accused, Senator Audrey Welter, and her defender, Senator Bruce, are trying to fulfill their elective duties while grappling with the elements of an impending trial.

The murder victim was a trusted aide to the governor with a checkered past, working her way up the social and political ladder. More than one person would have appreciated her demise.

Untangling the details and solving the crime brings the accused and her attorney in close contact, which spices the story with romance.

One of Moore's strong points in his work is his familiarity with courtroom scenes and dialogue. It lends his tales the authentic feel that you get from someone who has "been there, done that." Cindy Younkin, attorney and former Majority Whip for the Montana House of Representatives, agrees: "The intertwining of the legislative process, cross party politics, unscrupulous politicians, a murder and a senator/attorney/rancher who helps the damsel in distress makes for a great story," she writes.

Moore is a retired lawyer, cattle rancher, and former Montana Senate minority leader, who lives near Bozeman. His previous books include *Ride the Jawbone* and *Election Day*.



High and Inside

By **Russell Rowland**
Published 2013 by Bangtail Press, Bozeman, MT
\$16.95 softcover

Pete Hurley, a former Red Sox relief pitcher who smacked a Yankee batter in the eye socket with an errant ball – ending both his own career and the batter's – has moved to Bozeman to recover and build a house. He's accompanied by his three-legged dog, Dave, a truckload of loss, and a penchant for getting in drunken brawls.

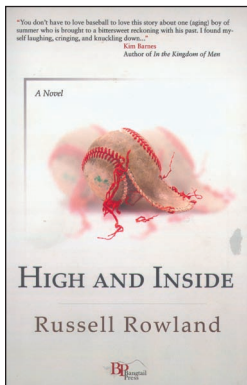
It's easy to understand how Hurley "has become the Robert Downey Jr. of Major League Baseball. You want him in your movie, but you don't want him at your party." Within a few days of arriving in town, he's gotten in a fistfight with the head of the local contractors' association, infuriated his loyal sister, and been stopped at gunpoint after trespassing on his new neighbor's land.

Even though he's smart and talented, the protagonist leaves a swath of disaster in his wake, from nearly blinding a batter to paralyzing the sister of his best friend from the neck down. And worse yet, he's not good at picking up the pieces, choosing instead to blame others for his escalating predicaments.

Rowland's third novel moves like the pitcher's prized change-up – alternating between Hurley's tragic childhood that left him orphaned at 16 and his major league catastrophe, to his efforts to build a home and rebuild his life in Montana.

"You don't have to love baseball to love this story about one (aging) boy of summer who is brought to a bittersweet reckoning with his past," writes author Kim Barnes.

Rowland, who was born in Bozeman and now lives in Billings, also wrote *In Open Spaces* and *The Watershed Years*.



The Esperanza Fire — Arson, Murder, and the Agony of Engine 57

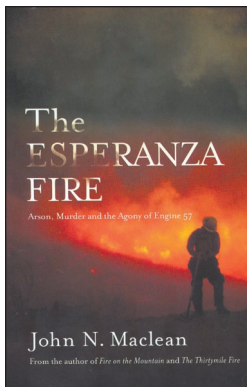
By **John N. Maclean**
Published 2013 by Counterpoint, Berkeley, CA
\$26 hardcover

Award-winning journalist John Maclean's fourth book on wildfires looks at a conflagration ignited in Southern California in the fall of 2006. At the time, it was not the most extensive or expensive wildfire in the state's history, in terms of loss of property or life. It did, however, mark the first time an arsonist was successfully prosecuted for murder after an entire U.S. Forest Service engine crew perished in the blaze.

Five men died in a terrifying "area ignition," where flames and superheated gases erupted and traveled so quickly that there was no time to react – or escape. Through extensive interviews with people involved in the incident, Maclean unfolds a detailed account of the fire, the course of events leading to the identification of the arsonist and his subsequent trial on murder charges.

The tragedy resulted in an extensive investigation, conducted by local, state and federal agencies. The differences and difficulties they faced are brought to light in the narrative, including attempts to investigate the fire site after it became a crime scene.

Maclean also explores the evolution of the Forest Service's approach to wildfire, from the goal of complete fire suppression – a policy adopted after



The Big Burn of 1910 scorched three million acres in Idaho and Montana and resulted in 85 human casualties – to a "growing realization that fire plays a vital role in ecosystems."

Efforts to end the policy of suppression have been hampered, however, as more homes are built in forested areas. "Of 17 million homes built from 1990 to 2008, 10 million were in the wildland-urban interface," notes Maclean.

More than a recounting of one tragic fire-related episode, Maclean's work is a statement about the culture of wildfire management. Each major wildfire drives policy changes, "mostly for the better."

However, the author cautions, "What will not change is the nature of wildfire itself. It will forever keep its cunning, its power to destroy and to defy expectations, and its ancient place as a creature of the wild."

Maclean, son of the famous Montana author Norman Maclean, was employed by *The Chicago Tribune* for 30 years, mostly as a diplomatic correspondent. Previous works include *Fire on the Mountain*, *Fire and Ashes*, and *The Thirtymile Fire*.

– Judy Shafter

It Runs in the Family

By **Richard Manning**
Published 2013 by St. Martin's Press, New York, NY
\$25.99 hardcover

Missoula journalist Richard Manning's memoir is a big-thinking, wide-ranging meditation on neuroscience, global warming, wildfires, politics, religion, and journalism, all tethered to his own trajectory through life.

He grew up in rural Michigan, on what seemed like "a firm and unshakable foundation of family, land, and work." But that foundation was rooted also in Christian fundamentalism – a rigid belief that eventually collapsed beneath his bright, precocious intellect.

"Always I have held my story as framed by opposite poles of maternal and paternal lineage, of the clash between religion and simple working people who got things done. My deeper story is written by the tension between these two deeply American poles."

From his Anglo-Viking descendents to his last meeting with his father, then "a homeless babbling bum," in Panama, Manning plumbs his personal history: college in Ann Arbor during the late '60s, his brother's death in a rollover, his first job as a reporter with the local radio station, and then with the *Alpena News*, a small daily that still adhered to the motto, "The duty of a newspaper is to print the news and raise hell."

Eventually, he migrated west, working as a reporter and editor in Idaho before landing a job at the *Missoulian*, and – after 13 moves in 16 years – firmly planting himself in Montana. He learned to "work the record," and followed a paper trail that eventually led to a scathing exposé on the timber industry. When told he could no longer cover the environmental beat, "I did what needed to be done." He quit.

Manning, convinced there were larger questions that journalism wasn't addressing, began to travel the world and hobnob with food scientists, geneticists, agronomists, economists, ecologists, conservationists and epidemiologists. Much of it was professional – he's written four books exploring contemporary agriculture and restoration of the prairies.

But some was personal, helping him unravel the dysfunction of his family, challenge a fear-based way of thinking that defies both logic and science, and write this masterful, multi-faceted book.

William Kittredge calls *It Runs in the Family* "fearless and incisive while cutting through a lot of nonsense," and David James Duncan lauds it as "one of the finest diagnostic memoirs of our time."

– Kristi Niemeyer

Death al Dente

By **Leslie Budewitz**
Published 2013 by the Berkley Publishing Group, New York, NY
\$7.99 softcover

Bigfork writer Leslie Budewitz introduces readers to a likeable heroine, Erin Murphy, in the first book of her series, The Food Lovers' Village Mysteries.

The protagonist has returned to her hometown to revitalize and manage her family's business and work alongside her mother, Fresca, to transform the Merc into a gourmet market.

"The Food Lovers' Village" is how the locals like to refer to their lovely lakeside enclave called Jewel Bay. To emphasize this concept, Erin plans a town festival called Festa di Pasta.

Instead of the setting for celebration, the event is marked by the murder of a former manager of the Merc who left Jewel Bay several months earlier, embroiled in a marital scandal. In no time at all, Erin becomes suspicious of several of the town's residents, especially after fingers begin to point at her mother as a suspect.

Determined to root out the killer, Erin methodically prepares a "Spreadsheet of Suspicion" on her iPad, tallying the facts and narrowing her theories about who could have committed the crime. Readers familiar with the real-life setting for the town of Jewel Bay will enjoy trying to match the fictional to the factual businesses, streets and places the author describes.

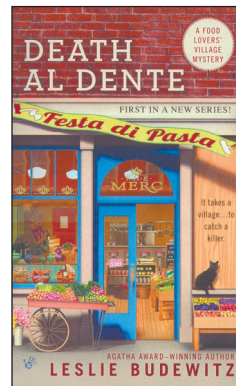
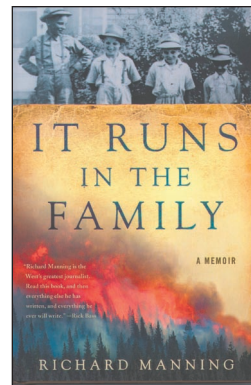
Budewitz keeps a pleasant cadence to her characters' conversations and events unfold at an engaging pace. Spiced with numerous descriptions of tasty foods and wines, readers may find themselves often drifting to the fridge.

A few favorite recipes and notes on wine are included in the back of the book, including one for Caprese Salad, which the author describes as "... the dish the angels serve when God needs a snack."

There's more to come from the food-savvy heroine, so stay tuned to see what the "Spreadsheet of Suspicion" turns up in the next volume.

Budewitz is a practicing attorney and author of *Books, Crooks and Counselors: How to Write Accurately About Criminal Law and Courtroom Procedure*, which earned her the 2011 Agatha Award for Best Nonfiction.

– Judy Shafter



ABOUT BOOKS

Glacier Ghost Stories, Spooky Tales and Legends from Glacier National Park

By Karen Stevens

Published 2013 by Riverbend Publishing, Helena, MT

\$9.95 softcover

Karen Stevens, an author, historian and paranormal investigator, has been collecting ghost stories for 30 years. She held back accounts of strange happenings in Glacier National Park from her two previous *Haunted Montana* volumes and shares them in her new book, *Glacier Ghost Stories*.

Learn about unexplained noises, smells, ghostly apparitions and things that go “bump in the night” at the park’s hotels and backcountry lodges.

Stevens has been hiking and exploring Glacier for 40 years so she has intimate knowledge of the places and spaces that she talks about.

Interviews with rangers, employees and tourists fuel this compilation of interesting tales, and whether you believe in ghosts or not, the book is an entertaining respite from other types of guides to Glacier Park.

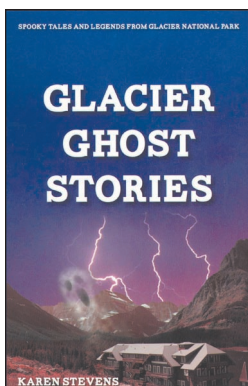
According to the author, the Many Glacier Hotel appears to be the “most haunted place in the park.” The remote location, vast size and long history “make it a perfect place for the paranormal,” she notes.

Winter caretakers in the park are particularly good sources for material, and Stevens has interviewed a few. Around 1931 several guests at the backcountry hotel, Sperry Chalet, reported seeing ghostly white bearded faces in their windows at night. Truth be told, the faces were merely curious mountain goats, licking salt that a guide had put there to attract them.

Other unusual happenings, however, lack such simple explanations, and those are the most fun to ponder.

Stevens is the author of *Haunted Montana* and *More Haunted Montana*. She makes her home in Billings.

— Judy Shafter



Weird Rocks

By Michele Corriel; illustrated by Dan Bilyeu

Published 2013 by Mountain Press Publishing Co., Missoula, MT

\$12 hardcover

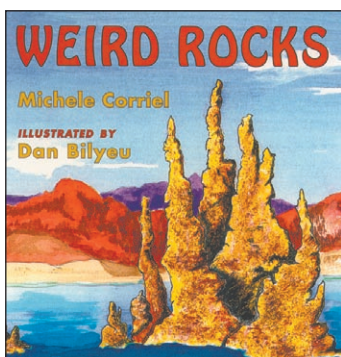
“Don’t you think it’s weird?” asks Belgrade author Michele Corriel as she introduces yet another strange rock to readers. And indeed, a peculiar array of rocks and minerals parades across the pages of her informative new book.

Young rock sleuths will learn about magnetite, which attracts metal like a magnet; floating balls of volcanic pumice; the crystal treasures just waiting to be discovered inside geodes; scheelite, a mineral that glows blue under ultra-violet light; the sulfur-infused rocks that smell like rotten eggs; meteorites that have landed here from outer space; and the mysterious ringing rocks that make a bell-like sound when hit with a hammer.

Bozeman illustrator Dan Bilyeu created the colorful paintings and goofy cartoons that adorn each page, while Tom Ferris supplies photographs of the 16 rocks and minerals excavated here.

Corriel, a children’s book author, freelance writer and self-described rock hound, says she wrote this book to share “the secrets behind the strangest rocks I know” and, hopefully, inspire kids to unearth some weird rocks of their own.

— Kristi Niemeyer



Lake County School History –

Volume II, Once Flathead County:

Many Districts Become One

By Joyce Decker Wegner and Lake County Country School Historians

Published 2012 by the Flathead Reservation Area Historical Society and Stoneydale Press Publishing Company, Stevensville, MT

\$29.95 softcover

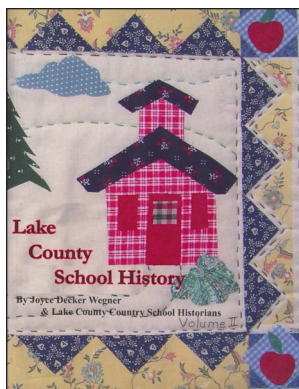
In Volume I, former Lake County School Superintendent Joyce Decker Wegner and her co-authors gave readers a vivid historical portrait of schools in the southern part of Lake County, which was originally part of Missoula County. This second volume takes us north of Polson to the upper west shore districts of Proctor, Rollins and Dayton, west to Hot Springs and east to Swan Lake in what was once part of Flathead County.

Hundreds of photographs and first-hand narratives are presented, along with facts, figures, dates, and maps to locate and characterize the schools and their communities. The book covers establishment of the first public school in the area at Proctor in 1895, through eventual consolidation of the majority of the small districts into the present-day Polson School District.

Images date from the early 1900s to 2012 and include a 1988 photo of famous fashion designer Liz Claiborne, speaking to the graduation class of two students at Salmon Prairie School. With so many photos and so many lists of names, just about anyone with a connection to the area is sure to recognize someone!

In the foreword, historian Harry Fritz calls the two volumes “a masterpiece of local lore and memory. They are important not just as nostalgia, but because they tell critical stories of race, culture, and education vital to the larger history of Montana.”

Decker Wegner began collecting material for the history of Lake County schools around 1997 and helped to form the Lake County Country School Historians in 1998. She generously credits the hundreds of people who came



forward to offer material and time to assist in the research and assembly of both Volumes I and II. She and her husband, Garry Wegner, live in Condon.

— Judy Shafter

Wolf Teeth

By Henry Real Bird

Published 2013 by Lost Horse Press, Sandpoint, ID

\$16.95 softcover

The former Poet Laureate of Montana (2009-’11) is back in the saddle, reflecting on love, his ancestors and the life of a Wolf Teeth Mountain Rawhider in his new collection of poems – a “moon-shadow, rawhide-laced allegory.”

In “The Horse,” he recalls the lessons he learned from Grandfather Owns Painted Horse:

“My grandfather heard the sound of the sun coming up from between the sky and the ground. It is there, the sound of sun and ground but someone has to hear these sounds of where life is from ...”

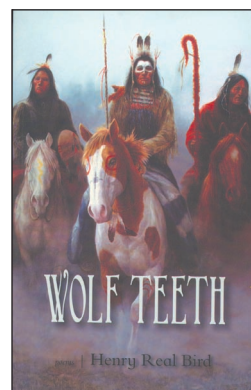
Real Bird seems carefully attuned to these sounds, what he describes as “feelings,” that arise when he’s closest to the earth. Crow is his primary language, and the cadence of “ancient songs kept in time by a rawhide rattle” inflects his poems.

“No one else contemplates bronzes, Chinook winds, the Wolf Teeth Mountains and forgotten creek beds in the way that Real Bird does,” writes Montana poet Mandy Smoker. “His is a careful, astute eye that reminds us again and again of our own interrelation, of our responsibility to all beings, all places that make up our world and beyond.”

The life that courses through these poems is authentic. Real Bird raises bucking horses on Yellow Leggings Creek on the Crow Reservation, and has been a bronc rider and cowboy most of his life. He also received a master’s degree in general education and has taught school from kindergarten to college level.

In addition to serving as poet laureate, he was named Cowboy Poet of the Year for 2011-12 by the Academy of Western Artists.

— Kristi Niemeyer



Your Soul at a Crossroads (With Steps You Can Take Not to Lose It)

By Valerie Harms

Published July 2013 by Magic Circle Press, Bozeman, MT

\$14 softcover; \$4 ebook

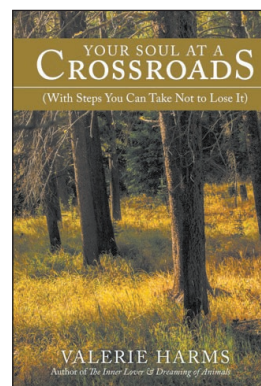
In her new book, Valerie Harms helps readers confidently choose the right path when up against the many choices in their lives. *Your Soul at a Crossroads* provides exercises on relationships, work and health that uncover the spiritual wisdom rooted in the individual’s soul. Part inspiration and part memoir, it guides readers toward renewal and transcendence after life delivers a blow.

Harms notes that everyone has difficulties – some inordinately hard – but all essential to their fate. “We struggle in relationships, work, health, and with how to live meaningfully. Sometimes we’re high, sometimes low, always in flux, but when we die to one way of life, we are reborn into another,” she writes.

Harms shares techniques that have helped her and others, and offer “fresh courage and insights to bring into your life ... and world.”

Contents cover the essence of timing, dialogue guidelines, examples from the author’s life and others’ dreams, death, and evocative rebirth symbols and myths.

Harms, a creativity counselor and an independent Jung scholar, has written nine books and numerous articles, and led writing and depth psychology workshops at centers around the country, and in Canada and Greece. A graduate of Smith College, she was a science editor at the National Audubon Society in New York City for seven years. She currently lives in Bozeman and edits *Distinctly Montana* magazine.



Glory Days Gone Under:

One Trapper’s Personal Chronicle of the American Rocky Mountain Fur Trade 1833-1837

By Edward Louis Henry

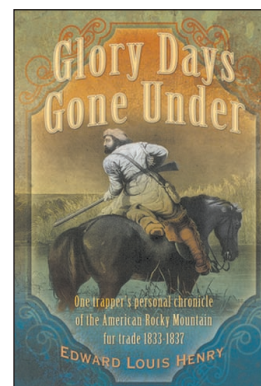
Published 2013 by Christopher Matthews Publishing, Bozeman, MT

\$31.95 softcover

The fourth and final volume of the historical series, Temple Buck Quartet, describes the final years of the American Rocky Mountain fur trade through the eyes and words of Temple Buck and his trapper comrades as they continue to trap beaver through the uncharted wilderness of the Rockies. They travel through forbidding western deserts to the Pacific Ocean in Spanish California and back again, harvesting not only beaver pelts but a host of fresh adventures, new friendships, romance, and, at last, an unwelcome education in conservation, marketing and gentlemen’s fashion.

Buck tells this true-to-life tale with homespun humor, matter-of-fact acceptance of high times and hardship, and the mountaineer’s abiding confidence that tomorrow will be better if you make it so.

Bozeman author Edward Louis Henry has been a cowhand, saddle bronc rider, World War II infantry sergeant, reporter, U.S. Foreign Service officer and speechwriter, and has spent 30 years in advertising. A lifelong horseman and outdoorsman, Henry is active in mountain man rendezvous where he is known by his moniker, Poredevil. Western history is his passion, and his extensive research adds a strong dose of authenticity to his books, including the other three titles in the series: *Backbone of the World*, *Free Men* and *Shinin’ Times*.



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Send us book ideas

Two Helena publishing companies welcome book ideas.

Farcountry Press invites writers, photographers and illustrators to submit their book ideas for consideration.

Farcountry publishes award-winning books on regional popular history, natural history and national parks for a general audience and for children.

The company also publishes color photography books on regions, states, cities and national parks, but generally does not publish poetry or fiction.

Please send book proposals to: Acquisitions, PO Box 5630, Helena, MT 59604. Include a self-addressed, stamped envelope or your materials will not be returned, and do not send original art or photographs. For more information, visit www.farcountrypress.com.

Riverbend Publishing also welcomes book proposals about Montana and the West. The company publishes award-winning books on regional history, natural history, photography and Glacier and Yellowstone national parks, plus cookbooks and fiction.

Send proposals to Editor, Riverbend Publishing, PO Box 5833, Helena, MT 59604. Visit www.riverbendpublishing.com for more information about the company.